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Inmate Critic Of DA Draws New Sentence

A critic of Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy death plot investigation has been sentenced to jail for refusing to repeat his charges against the DA to the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

In New York, still another Garrison critic who has been charged with public bribery said he will return to New Orleans "shortly" to answer the accusation.

AND IN NEW Orleans, Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. has tossed out a plea by attorneys for Clay L. Shaw aimed at halting Garrison's scheduled appearance on nationwide television Saturday night.

Those were the latest developments today as the DA's controversial inquiry into the death of John F. Kennedy continued.

John (John the Baptist) Cancler, a veteran burglar, refused to repeat under oath a story he told on a National Broadcasting Co. program June 19.

When he appeared on the NBC show, Cancler said two DA's aides had asked him to enter Shaw's French Quarter

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home late last year and "put something there."

HE WAS summoned before the grand jury yesterday and asked to tell his story.

Cancler took the Fifth Amendment, and grand jury Foreman Albert V. LaBiche trooped Cancler and the jurors before Judge Bernard J. Bagert, who hastily convened court.

Again, Cancler was asked to tell his story, and again he refused. Bagert found him guilty of contempt and sentenced the man to six months in jail, a $500 fine, or one year in jail in lieu of the fine.

Cancler was already in Parish Prison, awaiting the outcome of his appeal in a burglary case.

At New York, meanwhile, an NBC newsman who helped produce the show which criticized Garrison's investigation said he will return to New Orleans and surrender to authorities here.

GARRISON'S office has charged the TV newsman, Walter Sheridan, with public bribery. Sheridan was accused of offering key state witness Perry Raymond Russo money, legal help and a home in California if he would appear on the program.

Russo is the witness who testified at Shaw's preliminary hearing that he overheard the 54-year-old retired New Orleans businessman plotting Kennedy's death. Shaw is free on $10,000 bond awaiting trial.

At a news conference yesterday, Sheridan denied the bribery charge and added: "I have no intention of avoiding meeting this issue which involved a basic principle of freedom of the press."

He said he will come to New Orleans "in the next few days" to surrender, at the same time contending the charges against him were made in an attempt to intimidate NBC.

"The real issue is whether Garrison or any district attorney can use the criminal process to try to intimidate reporters," the TV employe said.

SHERIDAN WAS given his first news job by NBC after serving as an investigator for the Senate Rackets Committee and an official of the U.S. Justice Department. He worked for Robert F. Kennedy in both positions.

At New Orleans yesterday, Judge Haggerty told Shaw's attorneys he could not anticipate possible violations of his trial guidelines and halt Garrison's scheduled TV appearance Saturday night.

The DA was offered and accepted 30 minutes of national air time by NBC to reply to the network's June 19 program.

Shaw's lawyers appealed to Haggerty to stop the DA from appearing, claiming his remarks might prejudice the case against their client.

Haggerty ruled the request "would require that I change the position I have consistently taken . . . this court fails to appreciate how it can anticipate a violation of its orders until the violation occurs."

THE JUDGE reminded state and defense attorneys that he has repeatedly warned principals in the case that he will cite anyone for contempt who violates his guidelines.

In still another development, former Garrison aide William Gurvich went before the jury presumably to repeat his charge that the DA's investigation is a hoax. Gurvich remained behind the jury's closed doors for two and one-half hours and emerged to comment:

"Garrison was in there during the early part until he chickened . . . until he left."

Gov. John J. McKeithen today received another letter from the Metropolitan Crime Commission, urging him to press for an investigation by the state attorney general's office of Garrison's assassination probe.

The letter, signed by MCC Director Aaron Kohn and acting president William I. Monaghan, cited McKeithen's statements in the press that for the attorney general to stop the probe would not be good at this time.

The letter stated that, "We did not request the attorney general to stop the probe being directed by Mr. Garri-

son. We did ask the attorney general to investigate allegations that various crimes have been committed by Mr. Garrison and members of his staff during the past several months, in the course of the probe.

ACCUSATIONS of crime

against persons to whom we entrust the administration of justice cannot be ignored without creating an atmosphere of distrust for our justice machinery."

"It is untenable," the letter added, "that in a matter of wide public interest and concern, the attorney general and governor of this state, sworn to uphold its laws, should suggest that accusations of crime be ignored."

Both McKeithen and Atty. Gen. Jack P. F. Gremillion have rejected Kohn's repeated pleas for an investigation of Garrison's office.